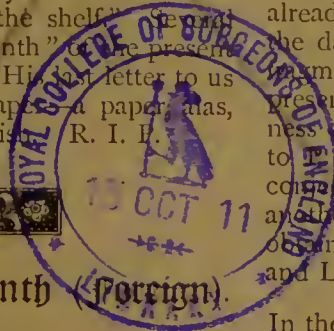


the British Museum, where, with his own catalogue, it was placed in 1856. We are glad to think that his exceptional and long-continued labours as an antiquary met with a graceful recognition in the spring of the present year, when a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Evans, president of the Society of Antiquaries, for the purpose of striking a gold medal in Mr. Roach Smith's honour, the balance of the fund to be handed to him, "in recognition of his lifelong and invaluable services in the cause of archæology."



Mr. Roach Smith was a not infrequent contributor to the columns of the *Antiquary*; his last contribution of any length was a paper on the "Roman Walls of Chester," that appeared in February, 1889. When a new series of the *Antiquary* was started at the beginning of the current year, it was with the hearty goodwill of Mr. Roach Smith, who wrote a kindly note, prophetic of success, to the present editor. When the circular was issued, Mr. Roach Smith, in good-humoured banter, objected to being styled "veteran," and wrote: "I hope to contribute to the new series of the *Antiquary* for years to come. Of course I am old, but why call me 'veteran'? It sounds as if I was on the shelf." Several of the "Notes of the Month" of the present year are from his pen. His last letter to us was about a projected paper, a paper, alas, that he did not live to finish. R. I. P.



## Notes of the Month (Foreign).

POMPEII was again visited by Prof. Halbherr on August 1, when he found the large house he described in our last number not yet completely excavated. The fresh works, however, had revealed the existence of another corridor leading from the upper city, near which was a passage giving access to a small chapel, very low and narrow, having an altar, probably for the *Lares*. On a small ledge before the altar can still be seen, undisturbed, a terra-cotta lamp and several

small vases, probably for incense and perfumes, together with some other terra-cotta fragments, but without mark or inscription of any kind.

\* \* \*

Prof. Sogliano, of the University of Naples, who is now directing the excavations at Pompeii, intends continuing them along the line of walls at the furthest end of the prehistoric mound of lava, in the direction of the sea gate (the present entrance to Pompeii), thus insulating the Basilica, and later on the *porta marina* itself, which forms one of the most interesting characteristics of the city.

\* \* \*

The floral decorations of the wainscot band of marble, serpentine, etc., mentioned last month, have now been taken down from the wall, and are being fixed, together with the dedicatory inscriptions, all found last June, in the small museum at Pompeii.

\* \* \*

Sig. Fiorelli announces the discovery of fresh inscriptions belonging to the fourth and fifth centuries, from the soldiers' burial-place at Concordia-Sagittaria, which throw very welcome light on the state of the Roman army towards the end of the Empire. Some of the *tituli* are inscribed on stones, which had already been used for the same purpose in the days of the first Cæsars. One precious monument of classic times thus accidentally preserved to us by the parsimony or carelessness of a later age, is an honorary dedication to Cominius Clemens, which confirms a conjecture of Henzen, made in reference to another Concordian inscription, that he obtained his honours under Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus.

\* \* \*

In the Commune of Zanica, in Bergamasco, a tomb of the first age of the Empire has been discovered, containing a rich collection of funereal deposits, all of which are well preserved. They consist of glass cups, vases of terra-cotta with coralline glazing, fictile objects of local manufacture, and various pieces of iron.

\* \* \*

Near Forlì, Commune of Fiumana, a pre-Roman tomb has been disinterred, and also a bronze statuette at Villanova, Commune of Vecchiazzano, a prehistoric settlement.

In Rome the latest discoveries have been a bit of old road near the church of St. Gregory at the Botanical Gardens ; fresh fragments of the dedications placed on the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus by the kings and peoples of Asia Minor, after the war with Mithridates ; a fragment of the Calendar in marble ; remains of the enclosure of the baths of Diocletian (in the garden of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, formerly at the Piazza di Termini) ; and two *cippi* belonging to the boundary on the right hand of the Tiber (found at the Prati di Castello). Of the last mentioned stones, one is the fourteenth of the series, and refers to the boundary fixed by Augustus, A.U.C. 747 ; the other, of which only the lower portion is preserved, belongs to the limit settled by Trajan, A.D. 101.

\* \* \*

Another milestone of the Via Appia has been found at *Arcorotlo*, near Minturno, where various antiquities and inscriptions had been found before. It belongs to the length of road between Minturno and Sinuessa, and bears the number 98 already observed on another stone now at Minturno, which is referred to the repairs of the Appian Road under Maxentius.

\* \* \*

The death is announced of Mr. Pelopidas D. Couppa, an architect, who fell from the top of a building at Constantinople. He was a native of Cephalonia, and had become a local authority on Byzantine archæology, on which he had given lectures at the Greek Institution. He was the keeper of the collections of the Institution, which are now fairly good. His special reputation was acknowledged, and he was entrusted by the Ottoman Government in 1877 with the restoration of a mosque, the Kahrîch Jamîsi. In manuscript he has left a history of Byzantine architecture, and a description of the mosque.



## The Barber-Surgeons of London.

By SIDNEY YOUNG.\*



order of the City Companies, and is the fifth after the "Twelve! Great Companies," the thirteenth being the Dyers', the fourteenth the Brewers', the fifteenth the Leather-sellers', and the sixteenth the Pewterers. But in historical interest the rank of this Company is certainly far higher than the mere order of formal precedence might seem to warrant.

The origin and records of this Company, that have now for the first time met with a capable chronicler, are of peculiar interest.

The Barbers' Guild, formed certainly as

\* *The Annals of the Barber-Surgeons of London*, compiled from their records and other sources by Sidney Young, with illustrations by Austin T. Young. 4to. ; pp. xii., 624 ; profusely illustrated. Price £2 2s. Blades, East, and Blades.

The initial letter T is reduced from one in the audit-book of the Company, 1612-13. The original grant of arms to the Barber-Surgeons was in 1451 : sab., a chevron between three fleams, arg., the fleams being mediæval lancets. The arms as they appear in the above initial letter were a new and augmented grant of the year 1568.



early as the first part of the thirteenth century, was chiefly of a religious character. Its regulations enjoined charity, attendance at the funerals and obits of deceased members; and though some of the early rules also dealt with such questions as the enticing away of servants of others, and providing for the amicable settlement of disputes, there was nothing in them that applied to any special trade regulations. But by the end of the thirteenth century, or previous at least to 1308, the Company partook of the nature of a trade guild, in addition to its religious and charitable obligations. The first express entry concerning the Company is the presentation and admission in December, 1308, of Richard le Barber as supervisor or master of the barbers, before the Court of Aldermen. At this time the barbers were engaged in the minor surgical operations, such as bleeding, tooth-drawing, and cauterization. Up to the twelfth century, the practice of both surgery and medicine was confined almost exclusively to the regular clergy, but the Council of Tours, in 1163, considered that the shedding of blood was incompatible with the sacred functions of the ministry, and forbade the priesthood any longer to practise surgery. The clergy up to this time had frequently employed the barbers as their assistants in surgical operations, and this edict of Tours put an opportunity within their grasp which they were not slow to seize. Henceforth it was usual for the barber to practise surgery on his own account, and to be usually designated as barber-surgeon.

The London Company of Barbers, in 1308, was, however, composed of two classes of members, those who were barbers proper, but also bled and drew teeth, and those who almost exclusively practised surgery, and who were technically termed barber-surgeons; nevertheless, the latter name was occasionally used for both classes. There existed also in the City, coeval with the Company of Barbers, an entirely separate guild or fraternity of surgeons. The Guild of Surgeons was smaller in numbers, and apparently less influential than that of the barbers; these rival Companies, as might be expected, were often in antagonism—throughout the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. During this period the barbers successfully maintained

their privilege of examining in, and exercising the faculty of, surgery. In 1462 they applied for and obtained a charter of incorporation. This charter contains a great deal that is relative to surgery, and nothing concerning barbery proper—that is, haircutting and shaving.

In 1493 an informal alliance was entered into between the Barbers' Company and the Surgeons' Guild, for the joint correction of inexperienced surgeons, and for the suppression of quacks. Each body agreed to



OLD ENTRANCE TO BARBER-SURGEONS' HALL. ATY

nominate two wardens, the four so chosen acting in conjoint capacity as rulers or masters in matters surgical. In 1540 the Surgeons and Barber-Surgeons were formally united by Act of Parliament, and were incorporated under the style of "The Maisters or Governours of the Mystery and Comminalte of Barbours and Surgeons of London." The surgeons of the Company were to be exempt from bearing armour, and from serving on watches or inquests. The dead bodies of four criminals were assigned to the Company

yearly for dissection. This union was maintained till 1745, when Parliament again inter-

Jones to rebuild their livery hall and other buildings on the leasehold estate in Monkwell



ferred, this time to separate the surgeons from the barbers.

In 1636 the Company employed Inigo

Street, which they held of the Corporation of London, and, further, to design a theatre for the delivery of lectures and for anatomical

purposes. This theatre was pulled down in 1784, and houses erected on the site. The livery hall was burnt down in the Great Fire, the present one being its immediate successor. But in the court-room, or parlour, which is said to be "one of the best proportioned and prettiest rooms in London," the work of Inigo Jones, is still extant. We give a sketch of the old entrance to the courtyard of the Barber-Surgeons' Hall; it was built in 1671. Hogarth has commemorated the theatre in his ghastly representation of the dissection of a criminal. This theatre, and its remarkably sparse collection of curios, is described in Hatton's *New View of London*, 1708, as "built in an elliptical form, and commodiously fitted up with four degrees of seats of cedar-wood, and adorned with figures of the seven liberal sciences and the twelve signs of the zodiac. Also containing the skelcton of an ostrich put up by Dr. Hobbs, 1682, with a busto of King Charles I.; two humane skins on the wood frames, of a man and woman, in imitation of Adam and Eve, put up in 1645; a mummy skull, given by Mr. Loveday 1655; the skeleton of Atherton, with copper joints (he was executed), given by Mr. Knowles in 1693; the figure of a man dead, where all the muscles appear in due place and proportion, done after the life; the skeletons of Cambery Bess and Country Tom (as they call them), 1638; and three other skeletons of humane bodies."

In Mr. Young's handsome volume, liberal and most interesting use is made of the court minutes of the Company, which date back to 1551. The court of the Barber-Surgeons in Elizabethan days exercised a remarkably wide control over the conduct of the city surgeons. Surgeons had to present to the court the names and cases of any of their patients who were in danger of death. On February 12, 1573, is entered: "Here was John Frend, and was comaunded to lay downe his fyne for not prsentinge Mr. Watson of the Towre, w<sup>ch</sup> dyed of Gangrene in his fote, and he p<sup>d</sup> xvs." On a second conviction for a like offence, Mr. Frend was committed to prison. Other presentations to the court of the same period show how ready they were to hear the complaints of patients, and to suspend incompetent

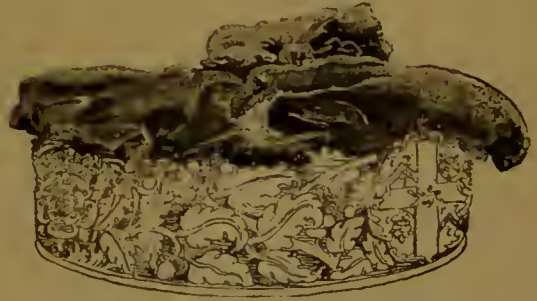
practitioners from the power of doing mischief.

"21<sup>st</sup> April, 1573.—Here was one to complaine of one John Burges for not delinge well w<sup>th</sup> hym in his cure concernynge a sore arme, and he is to be warned the next court."

"7<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1574.—Here was John Griffen complayned uppon William Pownsabe for gevinge him a powder w<sup>ch</sup> loossed all the teeth in his head, w<sup>ch</sup> John Griffen had the disease w<sup>ch</sup> we call de morbo gallico."

"15<sup>th</sup> March, 1576.—Here was a complainte determyed upon w<sup>ch</sup> was made against Tho: Hoder, and for that he was provde ignorant he is bounde in xli never to medle in any matter of Surgery."

Space forbids us making any further extracts from these minutes, or even doing more than indicating some of the considerable and un-



expected variety of subjects to which they refer—such as the strewing of herbs, the detection of lepers, the impressment of surgeons for the army and navy, the fights at the gallows for the bodies of criminals, the Christmas-box to the hangman, the letting of the hall for weddings, the execution of the burglar who stole the Company's plate, the chained books, manuscripts, and catalogues of the library, the expenses of the barge, the arrest of a woman surgeon, the resuscitation of several executed criminals, the buying of sweetbriars for the garden, etc.

One section of the volume deals fully with the plate pertaining to the Company. Much has been lost, and still more was parted with during the troublous times of the Great Rebellion. On March 19, 1649, the Company were so severely pressed by assessments for the army, that they resolved, being unable to borrow any more money under their corporate



seal, to sell plate to the value of £300. The Barber-Surgeons have, however, been fortunate in preserving some distinctive and beautiful plate, among which are royal gifts from Henry VIII., Charles II., and Anne. Their most valuable piece of plate is a handsome standing silver-gilt grace-cup and cover, presented by Henry VIII., in 1540, in commemoration of the union of the barbers with

Among other observables at Chyrurgeons' Hall we drank the King's health out of a gilt eup given by King Henry VIII. to the Company, with bells hanging at it, which every man is to ring by shaking after he hath drunk up the whole eup.

It is a considerable drawback to the account of the plate that no particulars are given as to the hall-marks.

In 1629 four very handsomely chased and



the surgeons. This cup is elaborately chased, and enriched with badges of the Tudor rose, portcullis and fleur-de-lis. The cover is surmounted with an imperial crown, under which are the arms of France and England quarterly, with the lion and greyhound as supporters. There are four pendent bells to the cup, which are thus referred to by Pepys in his Diary on February 27, 1662-63 :

wrought silver "garlands," or wreaths, were made for crowning the master and three wardens on election-day ; they are still used and worn by these officials on court-days in receiving guests. They are said to be the finest ornaments of the kind in the City of London. Each has the Company's arms, and the badges of the rose and crown, and are mounted with silk velvet, the renter-

warden's being green, and the others crimson. The engraving represents the garland of the renter-warden.

The two silver maces pertaining to the beadle of the Barber-Surgeons, an annually elected official who resides at the hall, are as handsome and massive as any in the City, and are carried before the Master on court-days.

The Company is much to be congratulated upon having found so painstaking and excellent an annalist as Mr. Sidney Young to compile their history, and to describe their charters, minutes, and other valuable possessions; and Mr. Sidney Young is fortunate in having so capable a draughtsman as his son, Mr. Austin Young, by whom the majority of the illustrations of this handsome volume have been delineated. The names of the publishers and printers (Blades, East and Blades) are sufficient guarantee for the superior character of all that pertains to the typography of the work.



## Holy Wells: their Legends and Superstitions.

By R. C. HOPE, F.S.A., F.R.S.L.

(Continued from p. 69, vol. xxii.)

### SHROPSHIRE (continued).

#### BOMERE POOL.

“**S**OME two centuries ago, or less, a party of gentlemen, including the Squire [of Condover], were fishing in the pool, when an enormous fish was captured and hauled into the boat. Some discussion arose as to the girth of the fish, and a bet was made that he was bigger round than the squire, and that the sword-belt of the latter would not reach his waist. To decide the bet the squire unbuckled his belt, which was there and then with some difficulty fastened round the body of the fish. The scaly knight (for so he no doubt felt himself to be) being girt with the sword, began to feel impatient at being kept so long out of his native element, and after

divers struggles he succeeded in eluding his captors, and regaining at the same time his freedom and his watery home, carrying the squire's sword with him.”—Miss C. S. Burne's *Shropshire Folk-lore*, p. 81.

The Monster Fish of Bomere Pool is thus described: He of course lives *in* the mere, not *beneath* it like the water-witches. He is bigger than any fish that ever swam, he wears a sword by his side, and no man can catch him. It was tried once. A great net was brought, and he was entangled in it and brought nearly to the side, but he drew his sword and cut the net and escaped. Then the fishermen made a net of iron links and caught him in that. This time he was fairly brought to land, but again he freed himself with his wonderful sword, and slid back into the water and got away. The people were so terrified at the strange sight that they have never tried to take him again, though he has often been seen since, basking in the shallow parts of the pool with the sword still girded round him. One day, however, he will give it up, but not until the right heir of Condover Hall shall come and take it from him. He will yield it easily then, but no one else can take it. For it is no other than Wild Edric's sword, which was committed to the fish's keeping when he vanished, and will never be restored except to his lawful heir. Wild Edric, they say, was born at Condover Hall, and it ought to belong to his family now; but his children were defrauded of their inheritance, and that is why there is no luck about the Hall to this day. This curse has been on it ever since then. Every time the property changes hands the new landlord will never receive the rents twice; and those who have studied history will tell you that this has always come to pass.—*Ibid.*, p. 80.

“Many years ago, a village stood in the hollow which is now filled up by the mere. But the inhabitants were a wicked race, who mocked at God and His priest. They turned back to the idolatrous practices of their fathers, and worshipped Thor and Woden; they scorned to bend the knee, save in mockery, to the White Christ who had died to save their souls. The old priest earnestly warned them that God would punish such wickedness as theirs by some sudden judgment, but they laughed him to scorn. They

fastened fish-bones to the skirt of his cassock, and set the children to pelt him with mud and stones. The holy man was not dismayed at this; nay, he renewed his entreaties and warnings, so that some few turned from their evil ways and worshipped with him in the little chapel which stood on the bank of a rivulet that flowed down from the mere on the hillside.

"The rains fell that December in immense quantities. The mere was swollen beyond its usual limits, and all the hollows in the hills were filled to overflowing. One day when the old priest was on the hillside gathering fuel, he noticed that the barrier of peat, earth, and stones, which prevented the mere from flowing into the valley, was apparently giving way before the mass of water above. He hurried down to the village and besought the men to come up and cut a channel for the discharge of the superfluous waters of the mere. They only greeted his proposal with shouts of derision, and told him to go and mind his prayers, and not spoil their feast with his croaking and his kill-joy presence.

"These heathens were then keeping their winter festival with great revelry. It fell on Christmas Eve. The same night the aged priest summoned his few faithful ones to attend at the midnight mass, which ushered in the feast of our Saviour's Nativity. The night was stormy, and the rain fell in torrents, yet this did not prevent the little flock from coming to the chapel. The old servant of God had already begun the holy sacrifice, when a roar was heard in the upper part of the valley. The server was just ringing the Sanctus bell which hung in the bell-cot, when a flood of water dashed into the church, and rapidly rose till it put out the altar-lights. In a few moments more, the whole building was washed away, and the mere, which had burst its mountain barrier, occupied the hollow in which the village had stood. Men say that if you sail over the mere on Christmas Eve, just after midnight, you may hear the Sanctus bell tolling."—*Shropshire Folk-lore*, p. 64.

Here is another legend. Many have tried to fathom Bomere, but in vain. Though waggon-ropes were tied together and let down into it, no bottom could be found—and how should there be? when everyone knows

that it *has* none! Nor can it be drained. The attempt was once made, and found useless; for whatever the workmen did in the day, was undone by some mysterious power in the night.

In the days of the Roman Empire, when Uriconium was standing, a very wicked city stood, where we now see Bomere Pool. The inhabitants had turned back from Christianity to heathenism, and though God sent one of the Roman soldiers to be a prophet to them, like Jonah to Nineveh, they would not repent. Far from that, they ill-used and persecuted the preacher. Only the daughter of the governor remained constant to the faith. She listened gladly to the Christian's teaching, and he on his part loved her, and would have had her to be his wife. But no such happy lot was in store for the faithful parson. On the following Easter Eve, sudden destruction came upon the city. The distant Caradoc—the highest and most picturesque of the Stutton Hills, crowned by a British encampment, which some have supposed to be the scene of Caractacus's last stand—sent forth flames of fire, and at the same time the city was overwhelmed by a tremendous flood, while the "sun in the heavens danced for joy, and the cattle in the stalls knelt in thanksgiving that God had not permitted such wickedness to go unpunished."\* But the Christian warrior was saved from the flood, and he took a boat and rowed over the waters, seeking for his betrothed, but all in vain. His boat was overturned, and he, too, was drowned in the depths of the mere. Yet whenever Easter Eve falls on the same day as it did that year, the form of the Roman warrior may be seen again, rowing across Bomere in search of his lost one, while the church bells are heard ringing far in the depths below.—*Ibid.*, p. 65.

#### COLEMERE.

At Colemere the bells may be heard, according to one authority, on windy nights when the moon is full. According to another, at midnight on the anniversary of the patron saint of the chapel, whom yet another informant declares to have been St. Helen.

\* These words were repeated as a sort of formula, necessary to the proper telling of the story. Their connection with the two dates, Christmas and Easter, as assigned for the destruction is striking.







